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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Docket No.: A-2829


MICHAEL BURNS

Date: May 9, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed herewith are the necessary papers for filing the following application for Letters Patent:

Applicant : LUTZ RICHTER ET AL.

Title : GATHERING STAPLER WITH SEPARATE DRIVES AND
METHOD OF OPERATING THE GATHERING STAPLER

4 sheets of formal drawings in triplicate.

The payment in the amount of \$ 710.00 covering the filing fee.

Claim for Priority. Certified copies of the corresponding foreign patent applications

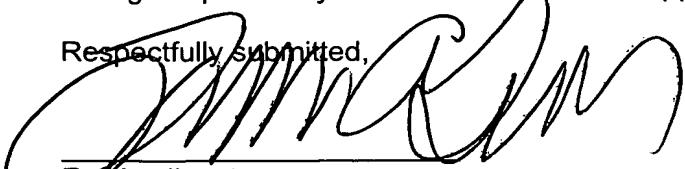
No. 100 22 323.0 filed May 9, 2000, and No.100 58 796.8 filed November 27, 2000.

Information Disclosure Statement and 2 References.

This application is being filed without a signed oath or declaration under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.53(f). Applicants await notification of the date by which the oath or declaration and the surcharge are due, pursuant to this rule.

The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby given authority to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1099 of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A. for any fees due or deficiencies of payments made for any purpose during the pendency of the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicants
LAG:vs

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